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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 HARARE 001103

SIPDIS

AF/S FOR B. NEULING
NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR C. COURVILLE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/31/2010
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SUBJECT: IOM UPDATE ON RESTORE ORDER RELIEF EFFORTS

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires, a.i., Eric T. Schultz under Section 1
.4 b/d

Summary

11. (C) On August 1, International Organization for Migration (IOM) officials told CDA and USAID mission Director they had received no reports of further demolitions following Vice President Mujuru,s announcement last week that the operation was over. They also reported that the GOZ had agreed to a pilot program to provide tents for victims of Operation Restore Order. They said during the visit to the proposed site of the pilot program, Security Minister Mutasa had spoken openly of the operation as a mistake and called on local security forces to assist with relief efforts. The IOM representatives said the cost of providing tents had pushed the UN,s &flash appeal8 to US\$ 18 million. End Summary.

GOZ Cooperation Improving

12. (C) In an August 1 meeting, IOM Chief of Mission Mohammed Abdiker and Regional Representative for Southern Africa Hans-Petter Boe told the CDA and USAID Director that IOM had received no further reports of demolitions following Vice President Mujuru,s announcement last week that Operation restore Order was over. They acknowledged this was not the first such GOZ announcement and agreed it was too soon to say the operation was really over but nonetheless considered it a hopeful sign.

13. (C) The IOM representatives said another hopeful sign was the GOZ,s increasing cooperation with relief efforts. Along with the UN Resrep, they had met July 29 with Security Minister Mutasa, who had proposed that IOM begin a pilot program to provide temporary shelter to people made homeless by the operation. Mutasa had suggested his own home district of Headlands as the site of the pilot program. The following day, they had traveled to Headlands with Mutasa to look at the proposed site and had been joined by Agriculture Minister Made and Justice Minister Chinamasa.

14. (C) Abdiker said that during the course of the visit, Mutasa had publicly admitted that mistakes had been made in Operation Restore Order and had called on local security forces to cooperate with relief efforts. Abdiker said unfortunately no reporters had been present. Still, to his knowledge it was the first time a senior GOZ official had said in public that the operation had been flawed. Mutasa and the other Ministers had agreed that IOM could provide tents to 123 displaced families. This would also be the first time that the GOZ would have allowed IOM to provide shelter for those made homeless by the operation.

15. (C) Abdiker said the three ministers had agreed that IOM could provide shelter and food while the families waited for the GOZ,s Operation Garikai to provide them with permanent housing. IOM staff would arrive in Headlands the week of August 1 to begin preparations. After setting up the pilot, IOM planned to set up another &tent city8 in the Harare suburb of Hatcliffe, then replicate the program throughout the country. Boe noted that there were rumors that Mugabe himself would visit the Headlands site on August 6.

UN Appeal

16. (C) Abdiker and Boe that the UN was in the final stages of crafting a "flash appeal" for assistance to the victims of Restore Order. To be issued jointly with the GOZ, the appeal would seek funds to provide assistance to approximately 40,000 of the families who had been victimized by Operation Restore Order. 20,000 of these families remained without shelter and they were in dire need of food assistance. Abdiker said the cost of providing the tents was the main reason the appeal had increased from US\$ 10 million last week to US\$ 18 million this week. Boe noted that the appeal would also seek funds to establish a UN Habitat office in Harare.

17. (C) The CDA and USAID Mission Director said donors might

have problems with parts of the appeal, such as the UN Habitat Office, which went beyond emergency assistance. (N.B. We may also have problems funding tents, which are expensive. USAID/OFDA generally prefers to provide plastic sheeting for temporary shelters.) In appealing for additional U.S. assistance, Abdiker noted for the record that the U.S. had been the key donor to IOM. The U.S. had provided nearly US\$ 2 million in emergency assistance following the onset of the operation and by acting quickly had encouraged the UK (US\$ 1 million), the Dutch (US\$ 500,000), and the Australians and the Japanese (US\$ 53,000 and 96,000 respectively) to contribute as well.

Beyond Restore Order

18. (C) Abdiker and Boe said that IOM was also working on several migration issues with the GOZ and the region. IOM had sent someone from their Georgia mission to advise the GOZ on border controls. This individual would be returning in September to install computers at the airport and other ports of entry as the initial phase of a tracking system. Boe said IOM had also just received permission from the GOZ to open up a sub-office in Beitbridge, on the border with South Africa, which would include a transit center to assist returnees from South Africa. The center would include Immigration officials, social workers, transportation, specialists in countertrafficking, HIV/AIDS, and health, and possibly food assistance.

19. (C) Boe said Save the Children had estimated that 9,000 people were crossing the border at Beitbridge each month and that the number of deportees from South Africa was 4-5,000 per month. Many returnees were attempting to walk home and were collapsing from exhaustion and lack of food. When Abdiker and Boe visited the morgue in Beitbridge, they were told there were 56 bodies that day, although the morgue only had capacity for 6. There were similar problems along the border with Botswana and IOM was considering a similar transit center in Plumtree.

Comment

110. (C) IOM has been the key player from the start in assisting the victims of Operation Restore Order. They have done excellent work with limited resources and despite an uncooperative government. Although their plans to provide tents to 20,000 families may be overly ambitious given the resources likely to be made available, they deserve our continued support.

111. (C) Mutasa,s apparent about-face on Operation Restore Order is an intriguing recent development. Three weeks ago, when he met with Staffdel Simpkins, Mutasa proudly boasted about his role as an architect of the operation. This is surely another sign that the UN Special Envoy,s report has hit the GOZ hard.

SCHULTZ